

Message Text

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42

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 DEAE-00 SS-15 MMS-01 PER-01 SP-02

ABF-01 SNM-02 /043 W

----- 122169

R 301233Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4157

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

INFO AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 3878

DEPT. PASS DEA BANGKOK PASS DEA

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, PER, LA

SUBJ: DEA PERSONNEL IN LAOS

1. IN VIEW OF ABRUPT POLITICAL SHIFT TO THE LEFT WHICH HAS TAKEN PLACE IN LAOS, I HAVE RELUCTANTLY DECIDED THAT THE NARCOTICS ATTACHE OFFICE SHOULD BE ABOLISHED. THIS DECISION IS BASED ON SEVERAL FACTORS:

2. PERSONNEL REDUCTIONS: I AM UNDER STRICT INSTRUCTIONS FROM THE DEPARTMENT TO REDUCE THE SIZE OF THIS MISSION TO AN ABSOLUTE MINIMUM. HUNDREDS OF POSITIONS HAVE ALREADY BEEN ELIMINATED AND MORE WILL BE CUT UNTIL WE ARE DOWN TO A TOTAL MISSION OF AROUND 50.

3. PGNU OPPOSED TO FOREIGN ADVISORS: I BELIEVE THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNION (PGNU) WILL NOT PERMIT FOREIGN ADVISORS TO OPERATE IN THE ENFORCEMENT FIELD AS THEY HAVE IN THE PAST. EMPHASIS DURING THE "NEW ERA" IS GOING TO BE ON "SELF-SUFFICIENCY." AS LAOS BECOMES MORE OF A SOCIALIST KINGDOM, PRIVATE ENTERPRISE OF ALL KINDS (WHETHER IT BE IN GOLD, SILVER, OR HEROIN)
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IS GOING TO BE DISCOURAGED BY THE NEW REGIME. MAJOR INTER-

NATIONAL TRAFFICKERS ARE NOT GOING TO FIND THE POLITICAL/
ECONOMIC CLIMATE IN VIENTIANE CONDUCIVE TO THEIR TRADE.

4. PERSONAL CONSIDERATIONS: THE ONLY POSSIBLE REATIONALE
FOR HAVING A DEA AGENT REPLACE FULLETT WOULD BE TO "KEEP
OUR FOOT IN THE DOOR", THIS IS NOT JUSTIFICATION. UNDER
PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES, A NARCOTICS AGENT HERE WOULD BE
LARGELY UNOCCUPIED, PERSONALLY FRUSTRATED AND PROFESSIONALLY
ISOLATED.

5. NEVERTHELESS I WANT TO ASSURE ALL INTERESTED AGENCIES
THAT THIS MISSION WILL MAINTAIN AN EVER WATCHFULL EYE ON
THIS WHOLE FIELD. IF OUR ESTIMATES PROVE WRONG AND WE
FIND THAT IT MAY BE POSSIBLE TO HAVE PROFESSIONALLY
USEFUL RELATIONS IN THE ENFORCEMENT FIELD, WE SHALL AGAIN
ASK FOR NARCOTICS ATTACHE POSITION.

6. WE HOPE THAT THE TWO AGENTS WHO HAVE RECEIVED LAO
LANGUAGE TRAINING CAN BE PUT TO GOOD USE IN THAILAND.
CHAPMAN

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NNN

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